

Close reading questions for "Walden" p. 379

1. What does Thoreau's say he considers ever site as possibly being?
2. What did Thoreau think about houses that others viewed as too far from the village?
3. What show how rich a man is according to Thoreau?
4. The line, "like Atlas, to take the world on my shoulders," is an example of what literary device?
5. What would Thoreau say to his "fellows?"
6. What does he compare the commitment of buying a house to?
7. What does Thoreau plan to be in order to wake his neighbors up?
8. What does he mean by "wake...up"?
9. Where is the other airy cabin that Thoreau thinks is fit for a god or goddess?
10. When did Thoreau first go to the woods?
11. Why is this symbolic?
12. Why did Thoreau go to the woods?
13. What did Thoreau not want to discover at death?
14. What does Thoreau mean when he says he wanted to live "Spartan-like"?
15. Explain what Thoreau means when he talks about the possibility that he might find life to be mean or sublime?
16. What does Thoreau say is the reason that most people believe we are on earth?
17. Despite this fact what does Thoreau say most of us live life like?
18. How do we "fritter away" our life?
19. Life is best lived _____
20. Explain the meaning of "Still we live meanly, like ants"
21. What government entity does Thoreau compare life to?
22. What does Thoreau say men feel is essential to a nation?
23. Explain the line, "Time is but a stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is,"
24. Explain the line "the intellect is a cleaver"
25. Why did Thoreau leave the woods?
26. What does Thoreau mean when he says we "make a beaten track for ourselves"?
27. What things make "deep ruts" rather than merely "paths" according to Thoreau?
28. What did Thoreau learn by his experiment?
29. What does Thoreau mean by "castles"
30. What does Thoreau mean by "different drummer"?
31. What does Thoreau say you should not do no matter how bad your life is?
32. What point does Thoreau make about the rich and the poor man?
33. What ironic statement does Thoreau make about the poor?
34. What does Thoreau believe people should cultivate?
35. What reveals the "heavenly lights" according to Thoreau?
36. What does he say about "superfluous wealth"
37. What does it not take money to buy?
38. Explain the egg metaphor
39. How does Thoreau end without arrogance?
40. Explain "the sun is but a morning star"